



**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees  
Academic Affairs, Student Life, and  
Athletics Committee**

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May 21, 2024  
1:00 pm

MEC Meeting Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Miller Education Center  
503 East Bell Street  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130





**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees**

**Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee**

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May 21, 2024  
1:00 pm

**AGENDA**

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes (Action) .....[Tab 1](#)

Approval of Tenure and Promotion (Action) .....[Tab 2](#)

FAFSA Update (Information).....[Tab 3](#)

Athletics Report (Information).....[Tab 4](#)

Closing Remarks

Adjournment





**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees**

**Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee**

**Action Item**

DATE: May 21, 2024

SUBJECT: **Minutes of the February 27, 2024  
Academic Affairs, Student Life, and  
Athletics Committee Meeting**

PRESENTER: Pam Wright  
Committee Chair

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on February 27, 2024. Minutes from the meeting are provided for review and approval.



**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT LIFE, AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

The Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee met on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in the Miller Education Center Meeting Room at Middle Tennessee State University.

**Call to Order**

Committee Chair Pam Wright called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Board Secretary James Floyd called the roll. The following Committee members were in attendance: J.B. Baker, Tom Boyd, Bill Jones, Mary Martin, Steve Smith, Christine Vanek, Michael Wade, Pam Wright, Molly Mihm, Keith Huber, and Chris Massaro. Trustee Pete DeLay participated in the meeting electronically. Per T.C.A. 8-44-108(c)(3), Trustee DeLay was asked and responded in the affirmative that he could hear clearly and confirmed there was no one else in the room with him. A quorum was declared.

President Sidney A. McPhee; Joe Bales, Vice President for University Advancement; Mark Byrnes, Provost; Andrew Oppmann, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Yvette Clark, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer; Sarah Sudak, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Alan Thomas, Vice President for Business and Finance; Leah Ladley, Chief Audit Executive; James Floyd, University Counsel and Board Secretary; and Kim Edgar, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, were also in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes - Action**

The first agenda item was approval of the minutes from the November 14, 2023, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee meeting. Trustee Vanek moved to approve the

minutes from the November 14, 2023, meeting, and Trustee Wade seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

### **Approval of Policy Revision and Related Rule Amendment – Action**

#### **Policy 312 Academic Misconduct**

##### **Rule 0240-07-04 Academic Misconduct**

Provost Byrnes reported that revisions to Policy 312 Academic Misconduct were submitted at the last Committee meeting, but approval was postponed due to concerns by Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Vanek. After further review, adjustments were made to allow reasonable time for faculty and student preparation for an institutional hearing.

Original revisions included verbiage to clarify that the improper use of artificial intelligence (AI) is a type of academic misconduct. Sanctions for graduate students were modified to allow the program to remove a student from the program in addition to sanctions from the academic misconduct committee.

Trustee Vanek thanked Provost Byrnes for looking into their concerns and asked for clarification about when the faculty member assigns the final grade and when the student may appeal the grade. Vice Provost Brian Hinote told the committee that the faculty member assigns the grade after the misconduct determination.

Trustee Jones moved to approve the policy and rule revisions, and Trustee Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the revisions passed unanimously.

### **Post-Approval Monitoring Report – Information**

Provost Byrnes presented the annual report noting that it was later than usual because THEC changed the process for reporting productivity for recently approved programs. MTSU had four programs in the report: Africana Studies, Dance, Fermentation Science, and Religious Studies. After Provost's Office staff met with each program's coordinator, department chair, and dean



to discuss ways to improve productivity, they determined the major in Africana Studies was not sustainable. We will proceed with Dance, Fermentation Science, and Religious Studies and terminate the B.A. and B.S. in Africana Studies. The undergraduate minor and general education courses in Africana Studies will remain.

### **Annual Report of Academic Program Actions and Approvals of Bureaus, Centers, and Institutes – Information**

Provost Byrnes presented curriculum changes and new centers and institutes established during 2023.

### **Athletics Report - Information**

Chris Massaro reported that new football coach Derek Mason has made great connections with the team and community.

Women's basketball clinched Conference USA early. The conference championship will be closer to home in Huntsville, AL.

The tennis facility ribbon cutting was held February 1. The facility was the first project funded by the Build Blue Campaign.

The Build Blue Campaign continues. We have significant asks that we are awaiting answers. We have moved into the Murphy Center phase.

New football season ticket holders are trending well.

### **President's Remarks**

President McPhee shared that an MTSU alumna was chosen to be a 2024 Gates-Cambridge Scholar, a prestigious honor for socially committed students, and only 26 were selected.

### **Adjournment**

Committee Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee





**Middle Tennessee State University  
Board of Trustees**

**Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee**

**Action Item**

DATE: May 21, 2024

SUBJECT: **Approval of Tenure and Promotion**

PRESENTER: Brian Hinote  
Vice Provost for Faculty and Special Initiatives

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The following faculty members have been reviewed for tenure and/or promotion by their department chair/school director, department/school committee, college committee, college dean, provost, and president, as stipulated by MTSU Policies 204 Tenure, 205 Promotion of Tenured and Tenurable Faculty, and their respective college and department policies. The president and provost recommend they be granted tenure and/or promotion effective August 1, 2024.



## Faculty Tenure Recommendations for 2024-25

	Name	Department
1	Bhadury, Poushali	English
2	Bowman, Angela	Health and Human Performance
3	Chilsen, Paul	Media Arts
4	Cirillo McCarthy, Erica	English
5	Devadoss, Christabel	Political and Global Affairs
6	Faezipour, Misagh	Engineering Technology
7	Fialka, Andrew	History
8	Grandjean, Peter	Health and Human Performance
9	Hebert, Holly	Educational Leadership
10	Hooser, Angela	Elementary and Special Education
11	Hoskins, Natalie	Communication Studies
12	Johnson, Samantha	Health and Human Performance
13	Manathunga, Vajira	Mathematical Sciences
14	Martin, Michael	Agriculture
15	Mohebbi, Mina	Engineering Technology
16	Moore, Todd	Geosciences
17	Mosley, Chaney	Agriculture
18	Nagorski, Richard	Chemistry
19	Neff, Peter	Aerospace
20	Nelson, Timothy	University Studies
21	Orak, Ugur	Sociology and Anthropology
22	Piano, Ennio	Economics and Finance
23	Randol, Shannon	Media Arts
24	Selph, Sheri	Art and Design
25	Smith, Carlos	Aerospace
26	Sprick Schuster, Steven	Economics and Finance
27	Stone, Kahler	Health and Human Performance
28	Taylor, Matthew	Journalism and Strategic Media
29	Treadwell, Aaron	History
30	Trowbridge, David	Political and Global Affairs
31	Vargas, Jorge	Engineering Technology
32	Walker, Donald	Biology
33	Weedman, Christopher	English
34	Whalen, Elizabeth	Health and Human Performance



## Faculty Promotion Recommendations for 2024-25

	Name	Department	Proposed Rank
1	Bhadury, Poushali	English	Associate Professor
2	Bowman, Angela	Health and Human Performance	Associate Professor
3	Callender, Mark	Aerospace	Professor
4	Cirillo McCarthy, Erica	English	Associate Professor
5	Clark, David	Health and Human Performance	Senior Instructor
6	Davis, Monica	Accounting	Master Instructor
7	De Clercq, Trevor	Recording Industry	Professor
8	Devadoss, Christabel	Political and Global Affairs	Associate Professor
9	Faezipour, Misagh	Engineering Technology	Associate Professor
10	Fialka, Andrew	History	Associate Professor
11	Gibson, Jeffery	Theatre and Dance	Professor
12	Gruppi, Francesca	Chemistry	Senior Instructor
13	Harris, Amy	Information Systems and Analytics	Professor
14	Hebert, Holly	Educational Leadership	Associate Professor
15	Hooser, Angela	Elementary and Special Education	Associate Professor
16	Hoskins, Natalie	Communication Studies	Associate Professor
17	Huddleston, Jonathan	Concrete and Construction Management	Clinical Professor
18	Johnson, Samantha	Health and Human Performance	Associate Professor
19	Kelton, Andrea	Accounting	Professor
20	Krahenbuhl, Kevin	Educational Leadership	Professor
21	Leander, Rachel	Mathematical Sciences	Professor
22	Lee, Deborah	Nursing	Professor of Practice
23	Lim, Seok	Elementary and Special Education	Professor
24	Manathunga, Vajira	Mathematical Sciences	Associate Professor
25	Mangione, Katherine	Elementary and Special Education	Professor
26	Miao, Lei	Engineering Technology	Professor
27	Mohebbi, Mina	Engineering Technology	Associate Professor
28	Morgan, Joseph	Music	Professor
29	Mosley, Chaney	Agriculture	Associate Professor
30	Nadgir, Arunesh	Music	Professor
31	Neff, Peter	Aerospace	Associate Professor
32	Nelson, David	Biology	Professor
33	Nelson, Timothy	University Studies	Associate Professor
34	Orak, Ugur	Sociology and Anthropology	Associate Professor
35	Oslund, Eric	Elementary and Special Education	Professor
36	Pantelides, Kate	English	Professor
37	Phillips, Joshua	Computer Science	Professor
38	Piano, Ennio	Economics and Finance	Associate Professor
39	Polk, Andrew	History	Professor
40	Randol, Shannon	Media Arts	Associate Professor
41	Rego, Andrea	Agriculture	Senior Instructor
42	Seagraves, Philip	Economics and Finance	Professor

	Name	Department	Proposed Rank
43	Selph, Sheri	Art and Design	Associate Professor
44	Smith, Carlos	Aerospace	Associate Professor
45	Sprick Schuster, Steven	Economics and Finance	Associate Professor
46	Stone, Kahler	Health and Human Performance	Associate Professor
47	Taylor, Matthew	Journalism and Strategic Media	Associate Professor
48	Treadwell, Aaron	History	Associate Professor
49	Trowbridge, David	Political and Global Affairs	Associate Professor
50	Turner, Jae	History	Master Instructor
51	Walker, Donald	Biology	Associate Professor
52	Weedman, Christopher	English	Associate Professor
53	Whalen, Elizabeth	Health and Human Performance	Associate Professor
54	Wright, Elizabeth	Criminal Justice Administration	Professor
55	Wyatt, Andrew	Sociology and Anthropology	Professor





**Middle Tennessee State University**

**Board of Trustees**

**Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee**

**Information Item**

DATE: May 21, 2024

SUBJECT: **FAFSA Update**

PRESENTER: Laurie Witherow  
Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Services

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Dr. Witherow will discuss the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).





**Middle Tennessee State University  
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**Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics Committee**

**Information Item**

DATE: May 21, 2024

SUBJECT: **Athletics Report**

PRESENTER: Chris Massaro  
Athletics Director

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Mr. Massaro will provide an update on the Department of Athletics.